

El Salvador Mission Event **Sunday School Lesson Plan**

Introductory Level

Teacher Delivery in Grade Level Classrooms

Large Group Gathering Time = 15 minutes

Led by: El Salvador Team

Content: Introduction, Video

Details:

- Video shows children in El Salvador with a focus on food, music and daily life
- Teachers have a video guide
- Classroom materials build on what the children see in the video

Grade Level Class Time = 30 minutes

Led by: Sunday School Teachers

Content: El Salvador country information, life and food, art project

Teachers are encouraged to adapt this basic lesson according to the ages of their students. For example, older students will enjoy looking at a map, while younger students will understand that El Salvador is a plane-ride away.

Teaching Tools

- Lesson Plan
- Maps, pictures
- Food in El Salvador story sheet, pictures
- Note cards (if the children ask questions that you cannot answer (stumpers!) please write them down and the El Salvador team will answer them at the end of the session)
- Seeds of Hope Plaque craft supplies (see craft plan)

Introduction

Share a brief history, maps and photos of El Salvador with your class.

El Salvador is a country in Central America. It is about the size of Massachusetts. It sits along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. El Salvador is a warm place, and not too far from the equator. The sun rises at 6 am and sets at 6 pm all year long. There are two seasons: the rainy season lasts from about May to October, and the dry season which lasts from January through April. November and December are the most pleasant months, with temperatures in the 80's during the day and 60's at night and not too humid. Most of the people in El Salvador are poor. Many live in the capital city, San Salvador, which has about 2 million people. The rest live in the countryside. Most people in El Salvador speak Spanish. El Salvador is known as the Land of the Volcanoes.

(Older children: Along the coastline, the land is green. Further inland, during the dry season the land is dusty. El Salvador has several volcanoes; the one near San Miguel is rumbling right now! El Salvador was once covered by a rain forest, but during the 1700's and 1800's the land was cleared and plantation crops were planted, first indigo, then sugar cane and coffee. El Salvador became an independent country in 1839, but was mostly controlled by a few very wealthy families. From 1979 to 1992 El Salvador had a civil war, when the poor people rose up against the military government. The country continues to struggle with problems of poverty and injustice. The country has also suffered from many natural disasters. Hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides and outbreaks of tropical disease make life in El Salvador very challenging.)

The name, El Salvador, means The Savior. The people of El Salvador have strong faith in Jesus. The Lutheran Church in El Salvador works to help people who are poor. *(The church runs a homeless shelter in San Salvador, youth centers, a medical clinic, a couple of schools and sponsors small business cooperatives. Even though they are poor and life is very hard, the people of El Salvador have very strong faith, are filled with hope, smile and have fun, and trust that Jesus is with them.)*

Learning About Food and Family Life

The video showed some examples of food and homes in El Salvador. **Read “Food In El Salvador”** to your class, and refer back to what the children might have noticed in the video. You can use the video guide to help you remember what you saw.

Craft Project (You need to leave 10 minutes for this)

Beans are a very important food for Salvadoran families. As the children work on their projects, **read out loud** the little story about the gift of bean seeds (this is what the students will glue onto the back of their plaques).

Seeds of Hope Plaque

1. Supplies needed: wooden plaques with hangers attached; decoupage and brushes; raffia: pre-tied into bows with trailing ends 5” long; dried red beans (like kidney beans) (about 8 small beans per student), photocopied story and Bible verse; cut to size
2. Have students place the back side of the plaque face up (this is the side with the hanger). Use the decoupage as glue, and paint it onto only the back side of the story. Stick the story onto the plaque. **DO NOT** paint over it, or students will not be able to flip the plaque and work on the front side.
3. Flip plaque over. Use decoupage to glue the Bible verse on the center of the plaque.
4. Paint a thick coat of decoupage over the entire front of the plaque.
5. Stick beans below verse. Dab decoupage over and around the beans.
6. Place the bow above the Bible verse and trail the ends around toward the bottom (see sample photo)
7. Dab a little decoupage over the bow.
8. Set aside to dry.

Large Group Closing Time = 15 minutes

Led by: El Salvador Team

Content: Seeds of Hope (focus on meaning of the story on the plaque), answer any stumper questions, song and prayer